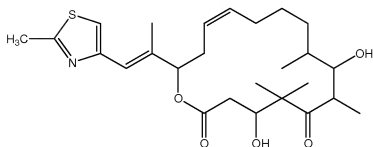


a.) Amendment to the Claims

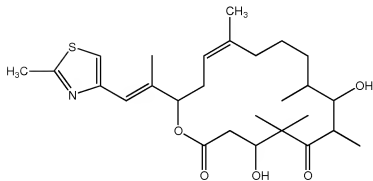
1. (Previously Presented) A compound having the formula



said compound having a state of purity such as to be substantially free of other major metabolic products produced by *Sorangium cellulosum*.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) A compound having the formula



said compound having a state of purity such as to be substantially free of other major metabolic products produced by *Sorangium cellulosum*.

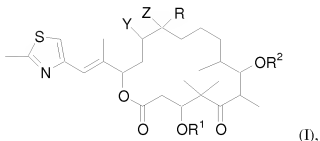
Claims 4-14 (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) A composition for plant protection in agriculture, forestry or horticulture comprising a compound according to either of claims 1 or 3 in combination with at least one agriculturally, forestally or horticulturally acceptable carrier or diluent.

16. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic composition comprising a compound according to either of claims 1 or 3 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 17 - 20 (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A compound having the formula (I)



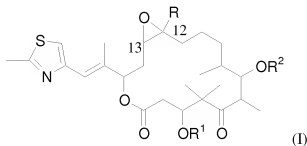
wherein R = H, C₁₋₄ alkyl; R¹ and R² are H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ acylbenzoyl, C₁₋₄ trialkylsilyl, benzyl, phenyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, or benzyl or phenyl each substituted by C₁₋₆ alkyl, hydroxyl, or halogen; where R¹ and R² can also combine to form the group -(CH₂)_n- with n = 1 to 6 and the alkyl or acyl groups contained in the radicals are straight-chain or branched radicals;

Y and Z are either identical or different and each represents hydrogen, halogen, ~~pseudohalogen, -NCO, -NCS, -N₃~~, OH, O-(C₁₋₆) acyl, O-(C₁₋₆) alkyl, or O-benzoyl, or together form the O atom of an epoxide, or form one of the C-C bonds of a C=C double bond, epothilone A and B being excluded,

said compound having a state of purity as to be substantially free of major metabolic products of *Sorangium cellulosum*.

Claim 22 (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a compound of formula (I), according to ~~claim 22~~ claim 21, comprising treating an epothilone having the formula,



to deoxygenate the 12, 13 epoxy group, to form a compound of formula (I) wherein Y and Z form a double bond.

24. (Previously Presented) A process for synthesizing epothilone A, comprising epoxidizing epothilone C.

25. (Previously Presented) A process for synthesizing epothilone B, comprising epoxidizing epothilone D.

26. (Previously Presented) A process for synthesizing epothilone C, comprising de-epoxidizing epothilone A.

27. (Previously Presented) A process for synthesizing epothilone D, comprising de-epoxidizing epothilone B.